



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
Southeast Louisiana Veterans Health Care System

Press Release

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Southeast Louisiana Veterans Health Care System to mark Independence Day with Salute to Flag event

NEW ORLEANS – The Southeast Louisiana Veterans Health Care System will hold its annual Salute to the Flag at 10 a.m. on July 4 at the Veterans medical center, 2400 Canal Street in New Orleans.

“On Independence Day, we should all take a moment to honor every generation of service members, Veterans and family members who sacrificed on our behalf,” said Medical Center Director Fernando Rivera.

Attendees will gather at the flagpole near the South Galvez Street entrance to the medical center. Visitor parking is also located on South Galvez.

The American Legion Post 377 Band will open the celebration with a musical tribute, followed by remarks from Rivera.

Raising the flag at the ceremony will be Emelda Mitchell, an 88-year-old Air Force Veteran. Mitchell is a New Orleans native whose family has a rich tradition of military service. Her husband, father, daughter, son, uncle and grandson also served.

Army Veteran Jamaine Smith will lead the Pledge of Allegiance once the flag is raised. Smith was recently elected commander of VFW post 3337 in La Place. She is the first woman to serve in that role.

Keaton Phillips, a Veteran and employee of the Southeast Louisiana Veterans Health Care System, will sing the national anthem, followed by a performance of God Bless America by the Post 377 Band.

For more information about the Veterans medical center, clinic locations and other services available to Veterans in Southeast Louisiana, visit our website www.neworleans.va.gov, or follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, keyword: VANewOrleans.

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